

BY-ELECTION ELATION



Triumph...
May's visit
to Copeland

Tories claim it's
biggest turnover
since Worcester
poll in 1878, when
Disraeli was PM

Labour vote down
9% on 2015
General Election,
UKIP fell by 9%,
Tories were up 8%

PM May told of
result by text at
4am...and was so
excited she woke
up husband Phillip

Biggest rise in vote
share for a mid-
term Govt since
1966, when Harold
Wilson was PM

Labour has held
Copeland, previously
Whitehaven, since
1935 when Clem
Attlee was leader

First by-election
win by sitting Govt
since 1982, when
Tories beat SDP in
Mitcham & Morden

History Mayker

PM'S JOY AT RESULT AS CORBYN CRUSHED



By TOM NEWTON DUNN
Political Editor

TRIUMPHANT Theresa May last night hailed the biggest by-election victory for any government in 139 years as "a devastating blow" for Labour. The Tories took Copeland, a safe Labour seat since 1935, early yesterday morning. Conservative candidate Trudy Harrison, 40, won by more than 2,100 votes – reversing Labour's 2,564 majority at the 2015 election. The PM took a helicopter to the Cumbria constituency to celebrate the stunning triumph, which broke a series of modern records. They include the first time

Battle... Corbyn

COPELAND RESULT

		VOTE SHARE
Con	13,748	44.3%
Lab	11,601	37.3%
Lib Dem	2,252	7.2%
UKIP	2,025	6.5%
Others	1,442 (4.7%)	

son, 40, won by more than 2,100 votes – reversing Labour's 2,564 majority at the 2015 election.

The PM took a helicopter to the Cumbria constituency to celebrate the stunning triumph, which broke a series of modern records.

They include the first time

a government has won a by-election since 1982. The eight per cent increase in the Tory vote share was also the biggest any government has seen mid-term since 1966.

And it was the first like-for-like result since 1878.

That means the governing party has taken an opposition seat with a previous majority of more than three per cent – without a defection or disqualification.

Calling it "an astounding victory", Mrs May told activists: "This is a Government working for everyone and every part of the country."

But it immediately plunged Jeremy Corbyn into a fresh

battle to keep Labour's leadership as he refused new calls from irate members to resign.

Dave Prentis, boss of union Unison, said the result in Copeland was the "final warning" for Mr Corbyn, who he branded complacent.

Moderate Labour MP John Woodcock branded it "a disaster" and the party's biggest private donor, the retail tycoon John Mills, called for a new leader to take over.

Even one the Shadow Cabinet, Shadow Lords Leader Baroness Smith, urged him to "think long and hard" about the result.

Mr Corbyn admitted that the defeat was "very disappointing".

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THE SUN SAYS & JAMES FORSYTH'S VERDICT: PAGE 10

UKIP'S BREXIT BOTCH

UKIP was plunged into a fresh crisis last night after leader Paul Nuttall failed to win the "Brexit capital" seat of Stoke Central. Labour's Gareth Snell, 31, held with a majority of 2,600, with Uk

only beating the Tories into second place by 79 votes.

Some 70 per cent of the constituency's voters had backed Leave in last year's EU poll. But Mr Nuttall, 40, right, elected leader 12 weeks

ago, vowed: "There's a lot more to come from us. We're not going anywhere. I'm not going anywhere."

Mr Snell said the people "have chosen the politics of hope over the politics of fear".

STOKE-ON-TRENT RESULTS

		VOTE SHARE
Gareth Snell	Lab	7,853 37.1%
Paul Nuttall	UKIP	5,233 24.7%
Jack Brereton	Con	5,154 24.4%
Zulfiqar Ali	Lib Dem	2,083 9.8%
Others		847 4.1%



Trump... yesterday

Trump in new spat over FBI

By JAMES BEAL

DONALD Trump stepped up his war with his intelligence services yesterday, blasting the FBI for failing to stop leaks of embarrassing information.

The US president hit out after reports emerged White House staff had asked the bureau to denounce alleged contact between Trump's election campaign and Russian intelligence officials.

FBI chief James Comey and deputy chief Andrew McCabe both refused amid an ongoing probe into supposed collusion between Republicans and the Kremlin.

Russian spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "Let's not believe anonymous information."

Meanwhile, ex-Ukip chief Nigel Farage predicted "a great global revolution" after Brexit.

He delighted a crowd, alongside Trump, last night at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington DC.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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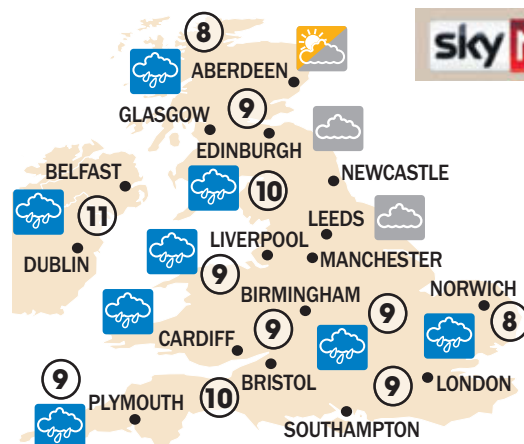
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UK's box office hit

MOVIES made in Britain now make more than a quarter of the world's entire box office takings.

Star Wars hit Rogue One and The Jungle Book also helped rake in £4.1 billion for the UK economy in the last year, International Trade Minister Mark Garnier said.

He added: "Our creative talents are the envy of the world."



sky NEWS HD WEATHER with NAZANEEN GHAFAR

TODAY: Cloudy with spells of rain moving in from the West. The rain will be persistent and heavy at times in north-western areas but it will then turn drier in Scotland. Dry in south-east England with rain by evening. Moderate winds.

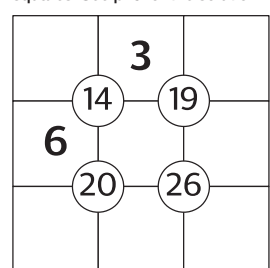
TONIGHT: Rain and drizzle especially over England and Wales will continue to move south-eastwards, becoming more confined to the far south-east. It will be drier in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

OUTLOOK: Mostly dry and bright on Sunday in central and southern England. Rain and showers elsewhere. It will be bright on Monday with scattered showers.

SUN 10°
MON 7°
TUE 6°

SUJIKO

To play, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so each circle's total equals the sum of the four adjacent squares. See p45 for the solution.



PUZZLES: PAGES 43-45

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GET INVOLVED



Today's birthdays

Comic LEE EVANS, 53, actress TEA LEONI, 51, both pictured, politician and dancer ED BALLS, 50.

LAST night's Health Lottery winning numbers were: 5, 26, 41, 42 and 45. Bonus No: 7. Last night's Euromillions winning numbers: 2, 4, 13, 22, 43. Lucky Stars: 8, 9.